IN THE CLAIMS:

The following claim listing will replace all prior claim listings

1. - 5. (*Canceled*)

6. (*Currently Amended*) The flocculant of claim 17 ~~mentioned in Claim~~ 5, wherein said silicon-containing substance contains iron or aluminum.

7. (*Currently Amended*) The flocculant of claim 17 ~~mentioned in Claim~~ 6, having a pH value of 2 to 3.

8. (*Currently Amended*) A manufacturing method for a flocculant made from a silicon-containing substance comprising the steps of: combining a silicon-containing substance and an alkaline substance that is calcium carbonate or lime; heat treating the resulting combination at a temperature lower than the melting temperature of said silicon-containing substance to generate an acid soluble silicon-containing substance; combining the acid soluble silicon-containing substance with an ~~acid~~ acidic solvent that includes HCl and one or more of acetic acid, ammonium chloride, or ammonium acetate to obtain an acid silicon colloidal solution that is a flocculant.

9. - 11. (*Cancelled*)

12. (*Currently Amended*) The manufacturing method for [[a]] the flocculantof claim 8 ~~mentioned in Claim 11~~, further comprising the step of passing

the acid silicon colloidal solution through a filter for filtering said silicon colloidal solution to remove undissolved suspended matter.

13. (*Currently Amended*) The manufacturing method for the [[a]] flocculant of claim 17 ~~mentioned in Claim 12~~, wherein an aggregating means is added for adding gypsum to said silicon colloidal solution to cause undissolved suspended matter to aggregate.

14. (*Currently Amended*) The manufacturing method for the [[a]] flocculant of claim 17 ~~mentioned in Claim 13~~, wherein a pH adjustment means is added to add iron or aluminum to said silicon colloidal solution to adjust the pH value of said silicon colloidal solution.

15. (*Previously Presented*) A flocculation method for mixing the flocculant mentioned in Claim 7 with a suspension to flocculate suspended matter.

16. (*Cancelled*)

17. (*Currently Amended*) A flocculant for flocculating suspended matter, ~~the flocculant obtainable by dilution of a silicon collodial solution,~~ wherein the floculant is obtained by:

mixing a silicon-containing substance with an alkaline substance that is calcium carbonate or lime,

heating the resulting mixture at a temperature below the melting

point of the silicon-containing substance, whereby the silicon-containing substance is rendered acid soluble, and

dissolving the so-heat-treated silicon-containing substance in an acid solvent that includes at least one or more of acetic acid, ammonium acetate, and ammonium chloride to obtain the flocculant.